

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Krinsky*, U.S. Patent No. 6,354,212, in view of *Lourette et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,515,760. Claims 7 & 8 are added by way of amendment.

Krinsky teaches a method of preparing individualized wallpaper panels that may be assembled to cover a wall. The goal state by *Krinsky* is to eliminate the “need for the repeating pattern that is typical of prior art wallpaper.”

The present invention requires “assembly spacing.” Assembly spacing is defined in the Specification as “the area between the subcomponents that will not contain any of the digital image information.” See Specification, page 3 paragraph 4, and page 5, paragraph 4. The subcomponents are the individually printed subcomponents that, when assembled, comprise the entire image. When the subcomponents, such as tiles, are printed and assembled, the process of the invention computes assembly spacing, so that the assembled image is not out of proportion due to, for example, grout that is between printed tiles.

The Office Action admits that *Krinsky* does not teach assembly spacing. It is the position of the Office Action that *Lourette* teaches “various overlapping regions (i.e. assembly spacings) [that] become part of the overall image.”

As the Office Action recognizes, *Lourette* teaches **overlapping regions**. “Overlapping” means that the individual images overlap each other where they join to create the overall image, to assure that there is no area between the adjacent image segments that is not imaged. This teaching is contrary to the present invention, which calculates and produces an assembly spacing so that the image is not present between the adjacent image segments or subcomponent entities. *Lourette*, by teaching that the adjacent images should overlap, teaches away from the present invention as claimed in Claims 1-8.

The present invention uses a plurality of individual substrates that are assembled to form the final image. Amendments to independent Claim 1 and independent Claim 4, require a plurality of individual substrates, *i.e.* tiles, although the use of a plurality of individual substrates is inherent in the claims as originally filed, and the amendment is made for the purpose of clarity, and is not submitted to overcome the rejection of the Claims.

Claim 4 as been amended to require that the ink used in the process according to the claim is an ink comprising sublimation dyes. Support for the use of sublimation dyes is found in the Specification, under the Examples, on page 9.

Newly added Claims 7 and 8 require that the printer is an inkjet printer. *Krinsky* indicates that the use of an inkjet printer is not preferred. In the present invention, the use of an inkjet printer is a preferred embodiment, particularly when the ink comprises


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sublimation dyes which are transferred from a first substrate to a final substrate by heat, as required by Claim 4.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 through 8 are in condition for allowance. Review and allowance at the earliest possible date is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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